

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FORMER
PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION
DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

Our country's former prisoners of war are national heroes. Their service placed them in harm's way, causing their capture and imprisonment. They have suffered and sacrificed a great deal to ensure our freedom and national security.

These courageous Americans who suffered through often horrific and demeaning conditions in wars, including Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War and now Operation Iraqi Freedom, have my greatest appreciation and respect. I also extend my gratitude to family members of former POWs who stood by and supported their loved ones during such excruciatingly difficult times.

Today's recognition of former POWs is particularly appropriate in light of the recent rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch. Pfc. Lynch was captured on March 23, along with 11 other U.S. soldiers from the 507th Maintenance Company. On April 2, in a dramatic military operation, she was rescued from a hospital in Iraq, and just two days ago was reunited with her family.

The heroism of Jessica Lynch and those who served our country before her signifies the high price of liberty.

As we recognize the former POWs that served our nation, I also want to offer my thoughts and sympathies to the family members of those who lost a loved one or have a loved one who is missing in action from the ongoing war in Iraq as well as past military conflicts.

On behalf of the people of the 4th Congressional District of New York, thank you to all former POWs for your brave service to America. To those who are still being held, we all pray for your safe rescue and that you come home soon.

EMERGENCY WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1559) making emergency wartime supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, today we are considering the largest supplemental appropriations bill ever brought before the U.S. Congress—a bill totaling \$77.9 billion. We live in extraordinary times, Mr. Speaker, so it is no surprise that we are considering a bill requesting an extraordinary amount of supplemental spending. What is extraordinary,

however, is that in light of the war on terrorism, the war in Iraq, and the simultaneous obstacles we face in ensuring the security of our citizens here at home, this supplemental bill includes only \$4.2 billion for homeland security.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders are already under great pressure ensuring the safety of our citizens and I am sure we would all applaud them for their hard work and effort. But our applause is not enough. Our applause does not help them effectively protect our nation. Our applause does not help our first responders become any more prepared for a chemical or biological attack than they, and our nation, already are. Further exacerbating the problem for our first responders is the fact that many men and women who are now overseas either in Iraq, or in support of the military action in Iraq, are reservists or members of the National Guard who are police officers and firefighters when not on active duty. As a result, many of our local police and fire departments are experiencing shortages in the personnel they have available.

We must provide more funding for these men and women. For that reason, I opposed the Rule for the debate on the supplemental spending bill. This rule prohibits Mr. OBEY from allowing his important amendment that would increase funding by \$2.5 billion for Homeland Security programs. Programs that are critical to our nation's security. The OBEY amendment would provide critically needed funds for military facilities, nuclear security facilities, port and infrastructure security, and much-needed funds in the amount of \$1.2 billion for state and local first responders. It is a shame that Mr. OBEY is not allowed to offer his amendment, but it is an even bigger shame that this bill shortchanges our needs for security here at home.

That being said, I do believe this is an important bill. I believe that it provides the critical resources to support our men and women currently fighting in the field. Just as we must support our first responders, so too must we support the men and women courageously fighting overseas right now, and we must do so by providing additional funding that will help them conduct their missions. I am hopeful that these funds for those currently in harm's way will help bring a speedier resolution to the operations in which they are participating, and will help contribute to their safety and the speed with which they are able to return to their loved ones back here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my thoughts, and the thoughts of my colleagues are, and should be, with the soldiers fighting overseas. But as we continue to keep them in our thoughts, we must not neglect the security of our nation at home. I hope that Members will work across party lines to provide more funding for our security at home as this bill returns from the conference committee. After all, don't we want to provide the best security possible for our soldiers when they return home? I, for one, certainly do. And I believe my colleagues should as well.

BOULDER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Boulder City Fire Department for obtaining a Class 2 Insurance Service Offices (ISO) rating. The ISO Class 2 rating is obtained by less than one percent of the fire departments in the county and is made possible by the dedication and skill of Boulder City Fire Chief Dean Molburg and the firemen of Boulder City.

As a former Mayor of Boulder City, and its current Congressman, I am proud that Boulder City has been recognized for its excellent fire coverage. The courage and commitment to public service shown every day by Boulder City firefighters is an example for all of us. They, and all Nevada first responders, have my thanks and full support.

RECOGNIZING ASHWAUBENON VIL-
LAGE PRESIDENT TED
PAMPERIN

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today before this House I'd like to recognize and honor Ashwaubenon Village President Ted Pamperin, whose exceptional leadership and commitment to the citizens of Brown County have strengthened our local communities, and set a superb example for our future leaders.

Ted's dedicated service began in 1971, when he was elected Ashwaubenon town supervisor. Since that time, Ted has held a wide range of offices, and served on virtually every committee and board in Ashwaubenon.

As a friend and colleague, I am sad to see Ted leave. However, I know his constituents are very grateful for the tremendous contributions he has made to our area throughout his tenure. Ashwaubenon is a strong community with an exceptional work force, a proud history, and a wholesome tradition. There's no question Ted has kept Ashwaubenon on that path, and greatly enhanced the quality of life for folks all across Brown County.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to recognize today the extraordinary service of Ashwaubenon Village President Ted Pamperin. On behalf of my constituents, we say thank you, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF INGERBORG
CARTIER HENRY

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, a blessed woman from my district in the U.S. Virgin Islands, whose worth was far above rubies left this temporary earthly residence and went home.